

Several networks, affiliated broadcasters, and even independent stations have repeatedly refused to air certain programs that could be construed as critical of the current administration, citing the need to avoid the sort of partisanship that might affect the coming elections.

By contrast, Sinclair Broadcasting appears to have no qualms about such partisanship, to the point of requiring their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary only days before the election. I believe that this represents a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation into a few very large hands.

By law, Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is consequently obligated to serve the public interest. But, as we've been seeing more and more, when large companies control the airwaves, they (perhaps naturally for a corporation) care more about what's good for the bottom line than what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve

more than a returned  
postcard.

If Sinclair is  
allowed to broadcast  
this extremely  
partisan program so  
close to the  
election, without  
providing a balanced  
viewpoint (such as  
by broadcasting a  
similarly partisan  
program from the  
other side of the  
equation), then I  
believe that their  
licenses to use the  
public airwaves must  
be revoked.

Please be assured  
that I will watch  
this situation very  
closely and that I  
will be prepared to  
submit highly  
negative comments  
whenever any of their  
stations' licenses  
are up for renewal.

Thank you for your  
attention to this  
matter.